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News Release

For Immediate Release

Weekly Grass Mowing Prevents Pests

With the arrival of the growing season, it is important to remember to properly care for lawns by mowing at least once a week. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department Environmental Services Division reminds our neighbors that tall grass and weeds, left uncut can create homes and food for unwanted rodents, mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, chiggers, snakes and other animals. Some of these pests are known to carry diseases that can be passed along to you, your family and your pets. By mowing lawns, weeds and vegetation on a weekly basis, rodent habitats will be eliminated and pests are unlikely to stay in your lawn.

“Mowing at least once a week helps control noxious weeds like poison ivy and ragweed, and it keeps your grass healthy,” says Janet Hicks, Compliance Supervisor at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. Noxious weeds are plants that have been determined to be harmful to people or the environment.

Here are a few tips for caring for your lawn:

- **Mow weekly.** It is easier and cheaper to mow weekly, rather than letting grass get too tall and difficult to mow
- **Mow in the early evening.** It is healthier for your lawn and decreases the amount of ground-level ozone in the air, which is a harmful air pollutant.

The City of Springfield has an ordinance that states that grass shall not exceed 12 inches in height. When grass exceeds this height, the property owner and/or occupant are notified to mow or otherwise take care of the problem. If not resolved in the given time frame, the property may be mowed by the City at the property owner’s expense. To file an environmental complaint, please call 417-864-1666.

**Mowing can be difficult, but it can also be a good form of exercise!** Mowing once a week will provide optimal environmental health and can be a great way to get outside and take part in some moderate activity.

For more information, visit our website at [www.springfieldmo.gov/health/ordinances.html](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/health/ordinances.html) or call Janet Hicks, Environmental Compliance Supervisor at 417-864-1689.

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